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October 20, 1986

Dear Senator Metzenbaum:

Thank you for your letter of September 9 on behalf of
concerning the fate of Raoul Wallenberg. I
sincerely regret the delay in this reply.

The President, the Department of State, and Congress share
a strong concern about the fate of Mr. Wallenberg. The U.S.
Government takes every opportunity to make this concern known
to the Soviet authorities.

Reflecting U.S. interest in this case, President Reagan
signed into law in October 1983 a bill conferring honorary U.S.
citizenship upon Raoul Wallenberg. Honoring Mr. Wallenberg in
this fashion was an important symbolic act. It has made the
Soviets and the rest of the world aware of our great admiration
for his courage and dedication to humanity. In addition, it
stressed our abhorrence for his unjust and illegal punishment
by the Soviet Government.

To emphasize further our dedication to resolve the mystery
of Mr. Wallenberg's fate, we raised his case with the Soviets
through diplomatic channels after he was made an honorary cit-
izen. To date, the Soviets have not responded. However, our
efforts to resolve the tragic mystery of Mr. Wallenberg's fate
will continue until the Soviets provide a full and satisfactory
clarification of their actions in his case.

The Honorable
Howard M. Metzenbaum,
United States Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE		IS/FPC/CDR	Date: 10/15/99
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We have pressed our efforts both in bilateral meetings and international forums, such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Review Meeting in Madrid and the UN Human Rights Commission. In 1982, the U.S. Representative to the UN Human Rights Commission urged the Soviet Union to make "a humanitarian gesture which would contribute to universal good-feeling, namely a renewed search and full report, which may lay questions to rest; or else in the best of all possible outcomes, result in the discovery of the whereabouts of a man who stands among the heroes of our time." At a February 1983 session of the Commission, the U.S. Alternate Representative again raised the issue of Raoul Wallenberg, whom he termed "one of the genuine heroes of World War II, and one of the war's most noble spirits." He suggested the UN Human Rights Commission's Working Group on Disappearances be authorized to "make a renewed search and a full report" on the case.

We continue to work closely with the Swedish Government to investigate reports alleging that Mr. Wallenberg might still be alive. Thus far, we have been unable to substantiate this information. Nevertheless, we will maintain a cooperative effort with the Swedish Government and other interested parties to seek information that will clarify the fate of this brave man.

On January 17, 1985, President Reagan issued a statement to mark the fortieth anniversary of Raoul Wallenberg's disappearance and to commemorate "his heroic deeds in saving thousands of Hungarian Jews." In his statement, the President said, "We will continue to insist that the Soviet Union has a moral obligation to answer, once and for all, the questions we have about his fate."

Sincerely,

J. Edward Fox
Assistant Secretary
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

Enclosure:

Correspondence returned.

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